

APRIL 2006 WEATHER SUMMARY

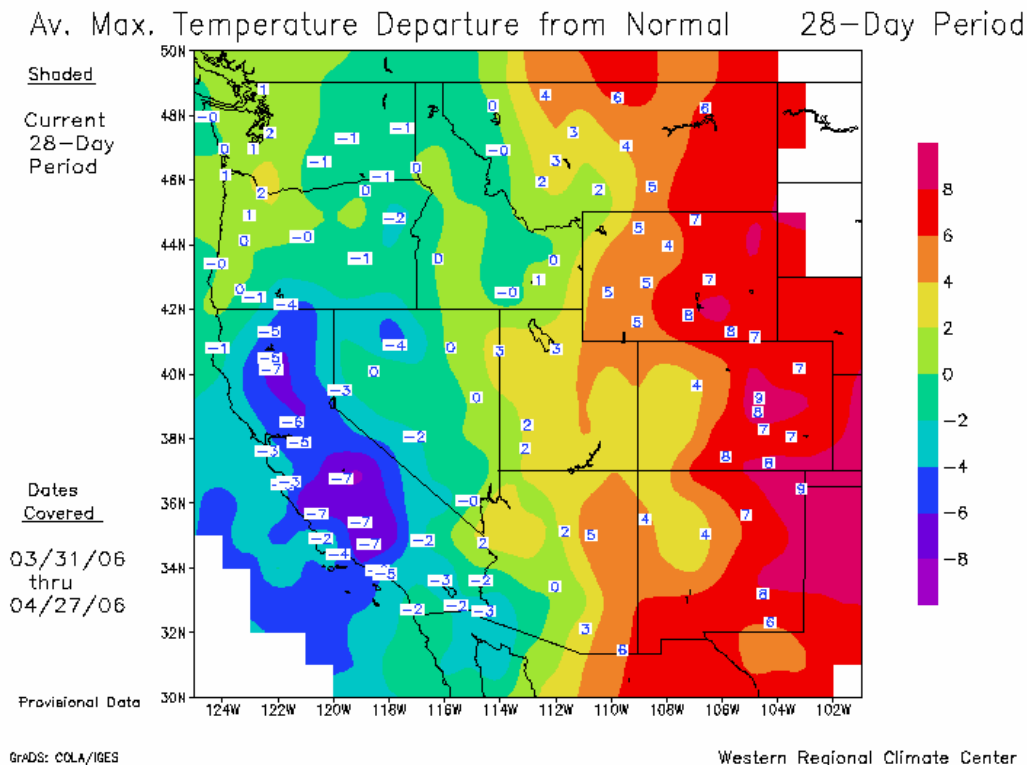
RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER

INTRODUCTION

For most of April, a series of Pacific troughs and low pressure areas brought near to below normal temperatures. However, a few weak ridges of high pressure brought above normal temperatures for short periods of time. The troughs and low pressure areas brought above normal precipitation to the entire region, except to southeastern deserts where there was below normal precipitation. Winds were mainly southerly during the entire month. However, there was one weak Santa Ana event which occurred during the middle of the month.

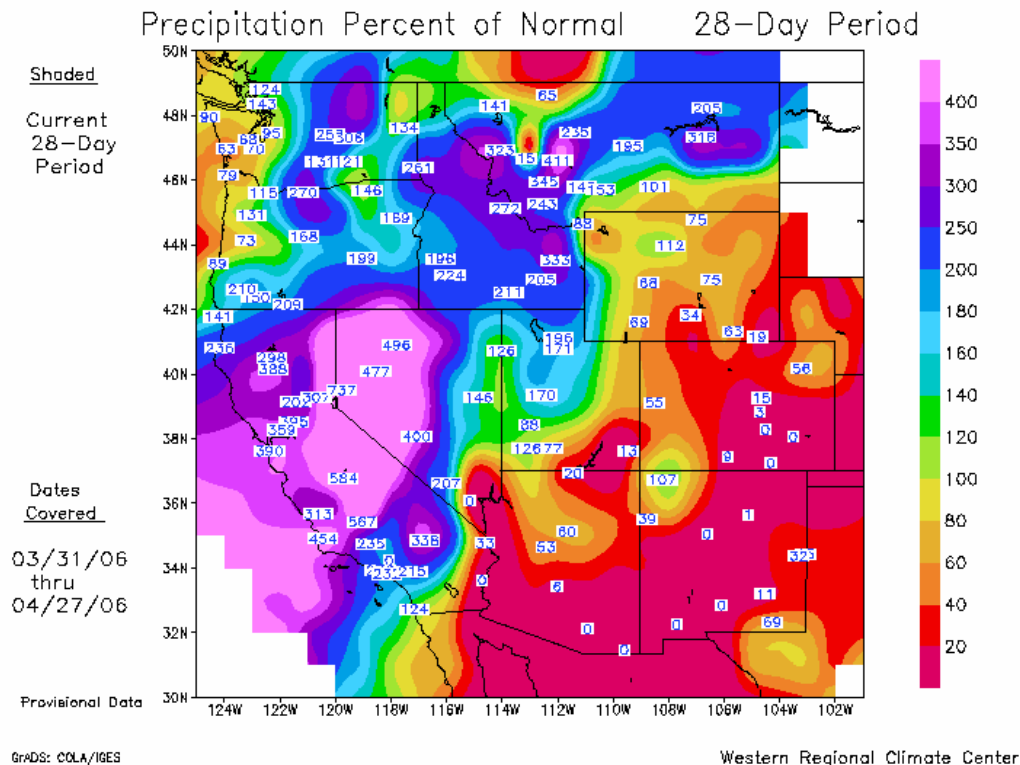
TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs and low pressure areas brought near to below normal temperatures during most of April. However, a few weak ridges of high pressure brought above normal temperatures for short periods of time. Across Southern California, many valley locations had maximum temperatures in the upper 70s and 80s with the ridges of high pressure and 60s to mid 70s with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the low 70s to start the month and upper 70s to end the month. For the month, maximum temperatures ranged from 8 degrees below normal over some Central Sierra locations to 2 degrees above normal over some eastern Desert locations. There were no record temperatures set at Riverside during the month.



PRECIPITATION

A series of Pacific troughs and low pressure areas moving through California brought periods of precipitation during the entire month of April. Most of the low pressure areas moved through Northern California so Central California received more precipitation than Southern California. Most locations over Central California received between 2 and 4 inches of rainfall and most locations over Southern California received between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall for the month. However, most Desert locations received less than an inch of rainfall with some southeastern desert locations getting no rain at all. Most of the storms were mild with a snow level of 5,000 feet over Central California and 7,000 feet over Southern California. Several new feet of snow fell over the Sierra while only the peaks received snow over the mountains of Southern California during the month. Riverside received 1.38 inches of rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 0.61 inches.



WINDS

Winds were mostly southerly the entire month as Pacific troughs and low pressure areas moved through California. Southerly afternoon winds were mainly between 10 and 20 mph. However, as the stronger troughs moved onshore southerly winds over some mountain and desert locations were 15 to 30 mph with gusts in the 40s and 50s. There was one weak Santa Ana event which occurred April 17th – April 18th. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were 15 to 25 mph with gusts in the 30s during this event.

FIRES

No significant fire activity occurred this month.

CONCLUSION

Overall, April had below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Winds were mainly southerly the entire month, except one weak Santa Ana event occurred during the middle of the month.